



Solar Power Groundbreaking Payson Unified School District

Friday, July 16, 2010

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Thank you, (Casey) Superintendent O'Brien.

And, thanks to all of YOU for allowing me to participate in this historic ground breaking.

In a few moments, I look forward to using a shovel to mark the beginning of this project.

You know, I don't mind getting my hands dirty.

I like using shovels. I'm a back-yard gardener at heart.

I like cultivating -- helping things grow.

Now, I wouldn't say I have a green thumb, but I DO take special joy in seeing SOLAR projects blossom all over Arizona -- and in special places like right here in the Payson Unified School District.

We are here to acknowledge Payson Unified School District's foresight and determination to construct the largest school district solar project of its kind in the state.

I applaud this example of a public-private partnership between the District, Arizona Public Service, and Kennedy Partners.

I don't have to tell you that energy costs are significant for schools.

But, through creative programs like this -- which will provide approximately 70 percent of electricity needs -- schools CAN control their energy costs AND keep more dollars in the classroom -- benefiting our children.

What's more – this project is being put in place with NO capital expense -- AND the district will own the system after 15 years.

I congratulate you, Superintendent O'Brien, and your team for meeting your energy needs – and even for having the foresight to place the solar collectors so they will provide shade to part of the playground and parking area.

In addition, I understand that a ground-mounted array will serve as a teaching tool for high school students – and all of the power generated by the system will be monitored by way of a web-link for science classes to analyze as they study energy.

Superintendent O'Brien, you and your team are pointing the way forward through the effective deployment of solar energy, making ourselves more independent and self supporting.

It is self evident that we live in a sunny place.

And, we know that we can capture our abundant sunshine and use it to supplement -- and someday even replace -- other energy supplies.

But, having the sunshine and having the technology to harness it is only part of the story.

The rest of the story is how we do it, and how fast we do it.

In both pursuits, I know Arizona can be the NATION'S leader. In fact, I want us to be the GLOBAL leader.

Here in the Payson Unified School District, you have shown we are well on our way. Thank you for allowing me to see this solar project begin to bloom.

God bless you and your families, God bless the Payson Unified School District, and God bless Arizona.

Thank you.